

# A Brief History of Redstone Arsenal and Its Impact on Huntsville, Alabama

Key Points About the History and Impact of Redstone Arsenal

1. In 1941, the Army established both the Huntsville Arsenal (32,244 acres) and the Redstone Ordnance Plant (4,000 acres) on the property now known as Redstone Arsenal (RSA). In 1948, RSA was designated as the center for Ordnance research and development in the field of rockets and in 1949 it became the site for the Ordnance Rocket Center. In 1950 the Huntsville and Ordnance Plant were consolidated into, what is today, Redstone Arsenal.

Oct. 25, 1941--Ground-breaking for Redstone Ordnance Plant

1940s--An assembly line in the Redstone Ordnance Plant

1940s--Production of chemical munitions at Redstone Arsenal

Basic HONEST JOHN rocket in development

Fabrication of an early version of the Redstone rocket

Redstone test stand -- now a historic test site

2. In the late forties and early fifties, Dr. Wernher von Braun and his German rocket team came to Madison County to develop the Army's rocket and missile programs. By the end of the fifties decade, von Braun's team had developed the rocket that orbited America's first satellite. The team eventually put the first American in space, transported the first astronauts to the moon, and propelled the space shuttle into space. The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), the hub of U.S. space propulsion, was established in 1960 on Redstone Arsenal.


EXPLORER I satellite ceremony with Dr. von Braun


Baker, one of two monkeys launched into space and recovered alive, May 1959


President Kennedy and Dr. von Braun, May 19, 1963


First man on moon, July 1969


Space Shuttle launch-- propulsion systems developed in Huntsville


Marshall Space Flight Center Headquarters

3. In 1962, the Army formed the U.S. Army Missile Command with a research arm that would eventually be called the Missile Research and Development Center (MRDEC). The Redstone Technical Test Center had its roots as the Test and Evaluation Directorate within the newly formed MRDEC.


MRDEC Headquarters


Static Test Stand B


Early Electromagnetic

Environmental Effects Test Facility

Hawk missile system under development

The TOW--the first guided missile fired in combat

Army family of missiles on display

4. A legacy of the space program, which benefits visitors, is the renowned U.S. Space and Rocket Center that was created in 1970. The Center's U.S. Space Camp, inspired by Dr. Wernher von Braun, attracts young people from throughout the world who spend a week experiencing space flight training and participating in mock space missions.

Shuttle Park at U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Campers at U.S. Space Camp

Campers at U.S. Space Camp

5. In 1997 the U.S. Army transferred the U.S. Aviation and Troop Command (ATCOM) to Redstone Arsenal from St. Louis. The command combined with the U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) to become the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM).

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Headquarters


PEO Aviation Headquarters building

RTTC's Airborne Systems Lab

Several Black Hawk helicopters in Airborne Systems Lab

EMC/spectrum analysis test at the Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany

6. Huntsville is now widely known as "The Rocket City" because of its large contributions to space and missile technology. It has also long been recognized as a powerhouse of aerospace and defense technology.

NASA test stand

Redstone rocket launch at Kennedy Space Flight Center

Shuttle leaving VAB at Kennedy Space Flight Center

Shuttle night launch at Kennedy Space Flight Center

PAC3 launcher on RTTC's road course

Experimental launch vehicle

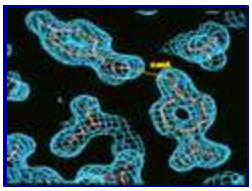
7. The area has also earned a reputation for having one of the strongest and most diverse high-tech communities in the nation. The centerpiece for the area's growth of high-technology companies is Cummings Research Park, a 3,800-acre park that is home to approximately 220 of the country's most viable research-related businesses. The park is the second largest research park in the U.S.

Aerial view of Huntsville,

Aerial view of Cummings

Alabama Research Park

8. Today, the community is considered a leader in scientific and technological advancement (i.e. in the areas of aerospace, defense, information technologies, and biomedical engineering).



Scientific and technological research ongoing in Huntsville, Alabama

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